Brian Desch

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Evaluation Paper

Nicole Egley

Home Owners

Bats: A Safety Precaution

“Stay here, I’ll check it out.” Creeping out of the bed, a small plump figure bends to grab his old high school baseball bat. Thirty three inches in length, thirty ounces in weight, made from maple, and ready to protect its user from the loud bang downstairs. As the bat’s owner nears the door, he hears the floor creak inches from the outside of his room. Preparing for the worst, he readies the bat while making sure to stay silent. Closer…closer…closer...finally, with one swing, \*crack\*, the unknown invader lets out a yelp and tumbles backwards down the stairs he had just tiptoed up. The bat handler switches the light on just in time to see his son falling down the stairs, along with a glass of water and a bag of chips.

This is a story that I have told over and over again. The unlucky boy falling down those stairs was me. Luckily, I only had a sprained wrist and an extraordinarily swollen forehead for about three weeks. Unluckily, I am now afraid to go downstairs for a late night snack due to the fear of getting hit with a bat…again. Although I don’t really recall this occurrence (most likely due to the severe blow to my temple), I can see why it happened. His intentions were good and I do feel a little safer under the protection of my bat flailing father, at least when I’m in my room sleeping. Some people feel extremely insecure at home, and why shouldn’t they? Relying on a screen door and a thin glass entrance wouldn’t make me feel too safe either. So what can be done about this? Easy, do as my dad did (maybe not the whole hitting your offspring part), get a bat. A baseball bat is one of the best security measures a home owner can have due to its ability to immobilize an invader, it isn’t lethal in most cases, you don’t need a license to own one, and it isn’t dangerous to have around children. I can’t say the same for guns which is why bats are a better choice when it comes to home security.

What can a bat do you ask? Good question, a bat raises personal security by about 65% (not a real statistic). In all seriousness, if someone is in your house with malicious intentions, there’s a good chance they don’t know their way around the house. Not only do they not know their way around but it’s also pitch black in the house. Unlike the intruder, you know your way around the house; where certain things are, which steps creak, pretty much everything you need to know to get around unnoticed. Also, the bat gives you one more advantage, a 33 inch longer reach (roughly). Now this isn’t to say you can start flailing a baseball bat around your house, you have to know what to do with it. This is where my dad’s logic was flawed that night. Aim low first as to immobilize the invader and to give you a few seconds to identify him/her. The only problem here is you have to be ready to swing again in case the attacker has a weapon to counterattack. The second swing is the one that is meant to disorient or knock out the invader. The point isn’t too swing like a professional baseball player; it’s to make the attacker not think clear so a sharp knock to the head is all that’s necessary.

Some people could probably look at this paper and ask, “why not get a gun instead”? There are multiple reasons, first of which is the promotion of violence in a household that could contain children. What kind of influence would a parent have if they endorsed the use of a potentially deadly weapon in their own home? Only in some cases would this be okay, but a baseball bat is less violent making it the better choice of the two.

Second, in some states you need a license in order to own a gun. Some people don’t even have the time to join the NRA or go to gun safety courses, or even have the desire to own a weapon that can change the course of a person’s life dramatically. On the other hand, in a lot of southern states, the ability to purchase a weapon is much easier. For those who realize the responsibilities of owning a gun, a baseball bat will always be the better choice.

Third, if you own a house there’s a good chance you are part of a family, which at some point will probably have children. Think of the worst scenario possible and you’ll understand why owning a gun is a bad idea. What if a child finds their way into the drawer where the gun is kept? The thing about small children is there very curious about little buttons and things you can squeeze. Only bad things can happen in this sort of situation. These are the things parents think about (I know because that’s all my parents use to tell me). For this reason many parents wouldn’t even think of having a gun in the house, and for good reason too.

Fourth, the whole process of the break-in is doubled because of the many actions that must be taken after the invasion. Now you have to worry about an ambulance, someone to clean the house, and a long process of questioning to determine if self-defense was necessary in this situation. Using a gun makes the whole process after the incident much longer and much more painful. On top of that, that little piece of your house will always be remembered as the place a man (or woman) was shot and possibly killed, which leads to my final point.

How do you think someone would handle the mental anguish of knowing that they changed another person’s life? Will the memory eat away at them, or would they get over it? They would never be able to know until the day it happened, and what if they don’t like the outcome, how would they feel about it. There’s always that chance that, even though they were just trying to protect their house and family, they feel remorse for what happened. Not only will the intruder be in a jail cell for a very long period of time, but they will also have a wound that, most likely, won’t fully heal causing some kind of physical impairment for the rest of their life. This kind of memory isn’t something one just forgets; they can only hope to be capable of coping with it.

If you have read half of this paper then you can understand why a baseball bat is more beneficial than a gun. Owning a gun in the house is scary, and can be unsafe for the people that live there. A baseball bat is safer to use, less of a mental strain, and a better overall weapon to use in the event of a break-in or invasion. Hopefully you have the same view on home protection as I do and will consider using a baseball bat as an alternative to other weapons.